

Supervisor's Report

From: Marlene Chockley

Date: November 9, 2017

Dear Board of Trustees,

Here is my report for the following meetings I've attended the last month.

Whitmore Lake Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber held an Oktoberfest fundraiser October 12 at the **Links of Whitmore Lake** to raise money for scholarships for Whitmore Lake graduating seniors. Trustees Otto and Beliger also attended. It was a good networking opportunity (and the appetizers were great, too!). Thank you, Links and the rest of the Chamber!

Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS)

Of particular note amongst the regular business, the policy committee discussed the 2045 Long Range Plan (LRP) Goals. The committee added a new Equity Goal to the LRP Goals to "correct transportation decisions that have separated, underserved, or otherwise negatively altered communities" and reaffirmed the goals of: protect and enhance the environment, invest strategically in transportation infrastructure enhancing communities livability and sustainability, provide accessibility and mobility, promote a safe and secure transportation system, engage the public in the transportation decision-making process, and link transportation planning and improvements to land use. Whitmore Lake is classified as a very low opportunity area in several respects. Improving transportation options for the community may begin to change that. The addition of the 200-car park and ride at 8 Mile and US 23 next year may help as a collaboration of agencies explore adding coach service from there into Ann Arbor several times a day.

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) – www.semco.org

The General Assembly meeting was held at the Cranbrook Institute on October 19. Trustee Beliger attended also. The most valuable session I attended was the key note address by Candice Miller, Macomb County Water Resources Commissioner. She told the story of the Fraser sink hole, a 300-foot by 28-foot hole that developed under 15 Mile Road due to the collapse of an 11-foot diameter sewer interceptor 60 feet below ground. Twenty-three families were evacuated on Christmas eve.

As Macomb County began to inspect all of their lines which had not been done systematically during prior administrations, one surprising discovery was an apartment complex that had not hooked up to the system and been discharging raw sewage for decades into a culvert that emptied into Lake Huron.

My take away from this story is the importance of inspection and maintenance of our waste water treatment system. While I believe our staff have been doing a good job managing the system, the SAW grant that we are receiving will allow us to assess where we are, what we need to do to be good stewards of this critical service, and plan for future needs. For those who are wondering about the origin

of the SAW funds, I found that they come from the Great Lakes Water Quality Bond which was approved by the voters in 2002 with 60% of the vote.

Other sessions I attended were the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan and an Economic Development roundtable where they discussed the pursuit of the Amazon headquarters and the assets needed to attract that investment.

Huron River Watershed Council - www.hrwc.org

The Huron River Watershed Council recently commissioned a study by Grand Valley State University which reports that the Huron River and Huron River National Water Trail are estimated to have the following economic impact on the region: Visitors use the Huron River corridor on average 21 times a year, 57% of all users are very satisfied with their recreational experience, over half of the river users have an annual income between \$25,000 and \$85,000, it produces \$53.5M in annual economic output, which is the sum of \$29.9M in direct spending and \$23.6M in indirect and induced spending, 641 local jobs have been added to the region, \$628M in added property value, \$150M in annual environmental value, and 2.6M visitor days.

In addition to ongoing water monitoring programs for chemicals, bacteria, and fish and wildlife habitat, recent efforts have included improvements to accessing the river with portages, canoe and kayak launches, and a canoe locker with rental slips. They also worked with Carlisle/Wortman planners to complete a Trail Town Strategic Plan with action plans with projects, leads, costs, and timelines to serve as a basis for developing proposals to fund priority projects.

The reason I am highlighting all this is that lakes and rivers are a significant draw for recreation of all types, in all seasons. We have a gem in Whitmore Lake and there is a great deal of opportunity for multiple benefits to the community if we protect its health, plan well for the future, and take advantage of our unique location. I encourage you to visit www.HRWC.org for ideas and dream big.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

The DDA met October 23, 2017. There seems to be a renewed enthusiasm for the activities of the DDA and we have had a quorum for several months. We discussed the wildly successful Trunk or Treat event held at the North Village/Community Park and thanked Jeni Olney who organized the event with the help of numerous community members. We discussed having a schedule of regular events to be held at the park to bring people into the downtown. The next major event will be Pond Hockey, weather permitting.

We continued to discuss revising the bylaws and reviewed the request for proposal (RFP) for the North Village. Afterward a motion was made and passed to accept the RFP.

We also discussed priorities for 75 Barker upgrades and its potential use. The DDA would like to discuss turning 75 Barker over to the DDA to manage the upgrades and use since it is a prime location in the downtown and will play an important role as the downtown redevelops.

SPARK Public Sector Committee

This meeting contained a very interesting presentation entitled "Benchmarking the Ann Arbor Region – 2017: An Economic Competitiveness Assessment." They assessed University research and development

expenditures, venture capital activity, housing affordability, population movement, driving industry employment, income inequality, and the labor market here and across the country for comparable regions. The discussion that ensued was very thought-provoking about how we might benefit from the economic engine that is Ann Arbor and recognize and address some of the challenges of housing, income, and transportation for many of our residents.

Visit http://annarborusa.org/sites/default/files/ann_arbor_spark_benchmarking_study_0.pdf for the full report.

Washtenaw Urban County Executive Committee

We received an overview of the Office of Community and Economic Development's (OCED) three housing rehabilitation and weatherization programs. These programs assist qualifying low income residents receive critical repairs such as roof replacement, furnace and water heater replacement and wheelchair ramp replacement. The work is done as a grant or by a 0% interest lien on the home. The weatherization program focuses on attic and wall insulation installation, but also does health and safety checks of heating systems and appliances to insure that there is no carbon monoxide danger. The last program is funded by DTE and performs furnace safety checks. Unsafe furnaces can usually be replaced by the program. Because Northfield Township is an Urban County member, our qualifying low income residents may take advantage of these programs. For more information, go to: www.ewashtenaw.org/weatherization or www.ewashtenaw.org/homerehab.

The Committee also coordinates funding priorities as a public-private partnership with human service agencies all over the county, including United Way, the Ann Arbor Area Foundation, and St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor in addition to Washtenaw County. They are continuing to focus on aging, housing and homelessness, Cradle to Career (early childhood and school-aged youth), and safety net health and nutrition programs.

The Committee is beginning to develop the 5-year plan document required by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to set goals including the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and HOME Investment Partnership funds.

Final Thoughts

Over the past several months we have dealt with several challenges that have occupied our attention and have perhaps distracted us from making some of the forward progress that we could have accomplished. We have made a great deal of progress nonetheless.

The opportunities we have are many. Pulling together and staying positive while solving the problems that have surfaced recently or that have even existed for decades will serve the community well.

Lastly, I was struck by the warmth and enthusiasm of many of the young families who stopped by the Trunk or Treat display that I manned last month. We have a wonderful community. They are excited about and desirous of what could happen in the downtown area. **Let's believe and make it happen.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Chockley

Township Manager's Report prepared by Steve Aynes for the November 14, 2017 Board Meeting

Agenda Items

The Agenda contains many issues that need to be discussed.

Other Items for Information

Employee Staff Meetings

I intend to meet with the staff to review actions of the Board and other matters of concern the day after each Board Meeting. The first one was held and I believe it was another step in improving communication between myself and the employees. This will also make it easier to pass along information of decisions by the Board or requested information.

New Code Enforcement Officer Started Work

Genal Pratt has worked in code enforcement in Hamburg Township. She previously served as an Assistant to the Brighton Township Clerk. She is very good working with people to resolve problems. Genal started work on Monday, November 6. She is enthusiastic about the new opportunity to serve the Northfield Township Board and the citizens and the business in the township.

County Health Department Grant

The water well pump for the Community Garden has been received. It will be installed in the Spring in preparation for the new growing season.

County Road Commission and Michigan Department of Transportation Proposed Projects

I recently was invited to attend a meeting the County Road Commission office. MDOT was expecting to complete the US 23 project by mid-November. I think the goal is to have this Project completed prior to the Holiday season. MDOT is in the process of acquiring land near the 8 Mile exit from U.S. 23 to build a new carpool lot. The one million dollar plus project is expected to start in the Summer of 2018 and be completed by the Fall of 2018. Another 2018 project shown on the Road Commission map is 7 Mile Road between Pontiac Trail and East Shore Drive

Township Web Site

If you have any suggestions for ways to improve the Township's Web Site, please send e-mailed comments to ayness@northfieldmi.gov The Township is reviewing content and presentation in order to make it easier for citizens to access information and to make comments.

Holidays for November

The Township Hall will be closed on November 10 for Veterans Day. The office will also be closed on Thanksgiving day and the Friday following Thanksgiving (November 23-24)